

DOUGLAS FROGMEN AID CANOPY TESTS

"Frogmen" — usually found only with the seagoing Navy, are now playing an important role for the airborne Navy at Douglas Aircraft's El Segundo division.



From the bottom of the 64,000 gallon tank, an aircraft canopy is returned for engineering studies by Douglas "frogmen" Dick Synovek and Joe McDonald. Removing the canopy from the water are, from left, Jean Peedan, Jim Dodge and Bob Coschel.

Garbed in complete frogman underwater equipment, two engineering laboratory technicians are currently participating in underwater canopy jettison tests being carried out at the Douglas plant to determine safety characteristics of aircraft being produced for the U. S. Navy.

The tests simulate conditions experienced when an airplane falls from the deck of an aircraft carrier in service operations.

Using a large 24-foot deep water tank, of 64,000 gallon capacity, Douglas technicians lower a forward fuselage section of an airplane deep into the water, then jettison the canopy to find if a pilot could safely escape from a "ditched" aircraft after it begins to sink under the water.

Contrasted sharply against an aircraft manufacturing background, the two "frogmen"—Joe McDonald and Dick Synovek—submerge into the water to retrieve the canopy after it has been jettisoned from the fuselage section. They also make underwater repairs and inspection of the triggering mechanisms, then report their findings to engineers topside on the tank. Oftentimes the underwater "explosion" causes parts to scatter, and the frogmen retrieve them for engineering studies.

Tests have been carried out with the A4D, F4D, and F5D. The testing program is a joint effort of the Douglas El Segundo division engineering department's equipment and interiors section headed by Ray Moldt, and the test laboratory, with P. G. Smith as administrator. Coordinating the project are Otto J. Minnich and Herman Hall of the equipment and interiors group, and Elwood Perren, engineering laboratory. Minnich has been associated with the A4D and F5D, and Hall with the F4D.

In order to carry out the underwater canopy jettison tests, the forward fuselage of the airplane is cradled in a large jig, and lifted by crane to the top of the tank. It is lowered into the tank at a sinking rate of one foot per second. Firing of the canopy is done manually with a lanyard from the surface when the section is between 14-15 in depth.

Both upright and inverted tests have been conducted in order to determine if the canopy could be jettisoned by the pilot under both conditions after a water crash. Tests results have proved conclusively that the canopy will open at both positions, giving the pilot a chance for survival after a sea crash.

Using sanitation and attractiveness as basic criteria, eight judges viewed all ranches in the competition during the first two weeks of the month, according to Bill Staiger, manager of the L.A. county farm bureau, sponsor of the contest.

The award program is intended to motivate a general clean up and beautification of one of the county's largest industries, which is now raising four million chickens, Staiger said.

Thomas, and Gary McElhanon.

Following the competition, delicious refreshments were provided by the PTA of El Nido.

Talent Show And Treasure Hunt Scheduled At El Nido

On Saturday, August 11, El Nido county park will feature a talent show and treasure hunt, sponsored by Los Angeles County Dept. of Parks and Recreation. All youngsters who can sing, dance, play a musical instrument, tell jokes, should sign up.

After the show, the youngsters will play games and search for hidden treasure. Refreshments will be served by ladies of the Home Extension group.

Poultrymen Get Awards

Four Torrance poultry raisers were winners in the second annual Award of Merit competition for poultry ranches in all parts of Los Angeles county.

They are Leo Radford, 3440 Emerald St.; Leonard Radford, 3430 1/2 Emerald St., Charles Rubin, 304 W. 223rd St., and K. L. Christofferson, 3516 Emerald St., all of Torrance. Christofferson was one of 25 ranchers who received the award two years in succession.

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Service Pins Received At Douglas Plant

Lapel pins commemorating a total of 455 years of service with the Navy Bureau of Aeronautics Western District were presented to Navy civilian personnel last week by Capt. F. D. Pfotenhauer, Bureau of Aeronautics Representative at Douglas Aircraft's El Segundo Division.

In presenting the pins, for 15, 10 and five years of service, Capt. Pfotenhauer said: "A lot of good service is represented by you good people. In my many years of experience with the Navy, I can honestly say this is the best overall organization I have ever encountered. Your aggressiveness and willingness to work is very gratifying."

Student Receives ROTC Training

ROTC Cadet John Cresson St. Pierre, a student at the Pennsylvania State University is presently at Fort George G. Mead, Maryland, taking six weeks of ROTC Summer camp.

Cadet St. Pierre, son of Mr. and Mrs. W. S. Artman, 1538 W. 204th st., Torrance, is one of over 1600 cadets from 40 colleges.

Big Bertha, the black sea bass, presented problems to her captors

Big Bertha, the black sea bass, presented problems to her captors Brocato and his assistant Boots Callandino. It took two veteran fishermen hours of struggle with the fighting 400 pound black sea bass, the largest in captivity.

Marineland collecting crews captured the specimens on expeditions to the California channel aboard the Geronimo.

Omar the largest octopus and his two companions range from 80 to 100 pounds with tentacle spreads of 10 to 14 feet. Frank Brocato, captain of the collecting crew, found the octopus near Santa Barbara Island and trapped them in 300 feet of water. Prior to this find, it was thought that the giant octopus was common only in waters farther north.

The octopodes reign over sundry sea life, such as ling cod, crabs and starfish in their super-cooled sea grotto at Marineland. The octopus is a deep water creature and thrives best in water of 48 degrees.

To air-condition the sea apartment an all glass heat exchanger was installed and plastic pipe fittings are used throughout the octopus tank water system.

The eight tentacled sea animal belongs to the shell fish family and carries its shell in the center of its body. From here, the octopus uses its parrot-like beak to strike prey entwined in its powerful arms. For protection against an enemy, the octopus may release an inky fluid. This usually enables the octopus to escape in a cloud of ink but many times he is poisoned by his own smoke screen.

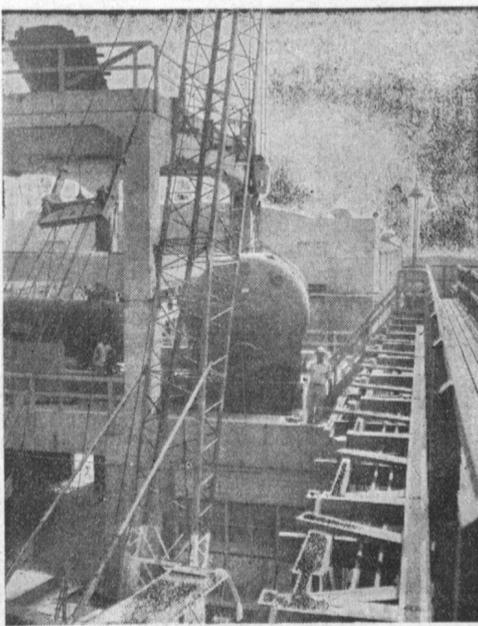
In a battle with another octopus, one of Omar's colleagues lost a tentacle. This was not as disastrous as it may sound, for like the starfish, the octopus can grow another arm. However, while the new extremity is growing the octopus is vulnerable to attack from his enemies.

Mr. and Mrs. Paul L. Fisher, of 222 Ave. D, announce the birth of a daughter, Jean Marie, weighing 8 pounds and 8 ounces.

Mr. and Mrs. E. C. Cope, of 3439 W. 228th St., announce the birth of a son, Robert Allen, weighing 7 pounds and 4 1/2 ounces.

Mr. and Mrs. James H. Murren, of 235 S. Helberia Ave., announce the birth of a son, Michael Louis, weighing 8 pounds and 3 ounces.

Mr. and Mrs. E. C. Stonaker, of 3427 W. 228th St., announce the birth of a daughter, Marta Diane, weighing 8 pounds and 14 ounces.



OPERATION FLASH

Mighty 11 1/2 ton flash tank settles into position two floors above the ground as engineers complete one of the most intricate operations in construction of the new latex plant for Shell Chemical corporation in Torrance. When latex plant is completed, it will be the only one on Pacific Coast to produce raw material for foam rubber. Above unit, which will operate under vacuum conditions of only one-third atmosphere, has a capacity of 10,000 tons, removes excess butadiene from liquid latex.

"Operation Doorbell"

The front steps of Sixty-eighth Assembly District citizens have become the political arena for the coming November elections, as far as Thomas C. Brewer Jr., Republican candidate, is concerned.

Brewer is waging a vigorous, door-to-door campaign in the district in order to meet personally the citizens whom the successful candidate will represent in the state legislature.

"There is no better way to discover how best to represent the people of a district than to talk to them at their own homes and find out what's on their minds," Brewer said.

Brewer stated that in a fast-growing state such as California, and particularly in an ever-expanding district such as the Sixty-eighth, where new individuals are moving in a steady stream, it is often difficult to discover the desires of the voting citizenry. Personal contact, he believes, will help to solve the problem.

Brewer is discovering that voters welcome the personal approach, and the opportunity to discuss issues at stake.

"The intelligent manner in which the voters are talking about the issues," Brewer exclaimed, "shows that they are vitally interested in the outcome of the election in this district. Their attitude has served to redouble our efforts

CITY SEEKS INSURANCE RATE CUT

A reduction in fire insurance rates will be sought by the city through a survey by the Board of Fire Underwriters of the Pacific, it was announced this week by Fire Chief J. J. Benner.

Benner said the City Council has approved his recommendation that the organization be asked to make the survey.

"The last official survey of Torrance was made in 1936, and I feel confident that a survey at this time would enable the city to obtain a lower rating which would result in a tremendous rate reduction for its citizens," Benner declared.

He said the survey would show greatly increased fire-fighting and water transmission facilities added to the city since the last survey.

John Colton, district engineer for the underwriters board, indicated that the survey might be made early next year, according to Benner.

GP Takes Anti-Smog Measures

The elimination of 1,455 pounds of pollutants daily from automobile exhausts on smoggy days is the goal of General Petroleum corporation, P. S. Magruder, executive vice president, announced today.

"This will be achieved by the activation for the second straight year of the company's employee car pools on smog alert days," Magruder said.

When the company's share-the-ride plan is working at its peak, approximately 800 cars will be removed from traffic, Magruder said.

The car pools affect some 3300 employees at the company's head office building in downtown Los Angeles, its refinery at Torrance and its plant and offices at Vernon.

Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Baumann, of 3313 Winlock Rd., announce the birth of a son, weighing 6 pounds and 13 ounces.

National Supply Will Manufacture Converters

A major step in a product diversification program, which may eventually affect its plant at Torrance, has been taken by the National Supply company.

The company has begun the manufacture of a complete line of heavy duty torque converters, on a production line basis, for a wide range of industrial applications.

This move, announced by A. W. McKinney, president, follows the recent establishment of a company wide research and development committee, and formation of a new industrial sales division, with the objectives of developing and selling additional industrial products.

National Supply, which is the world's largest manufacturer and distributor of oil field machinery and equipment, does about 80 per cent of its business with the petroleum industry. The other 20 per cent includes welded pipe and electrical conduit for general industrial use and construction, and industrial jobs handled on a contract basis.

The Torrance plant, of which J. D. Spalding is works manager, manufactures oil field machinery and equipment and also gets a healthy volume of special machinery orders and heavy fabrication jobs for various West Coast industries. The company's other plants are at Gainesville and Houston, Texas, for production equipment; Toledo, Ohio, for small drilling rigs; and Ambridge and Etna, Pa., for tubular products.

WHAT IT IS

A torque converter is a form of hydraulic transmission, comparable to an automatic transmission on a car, that provides a high degree of flexibility in operation of equipment. In starting to lift a heavy load, the torque converter acts as an automatic "stepped" transmission. Starts are smoother and acceleration of the load is faster. Equipment is easier to operate and can be controlled more precisely.

The new line is the outgrowth of development work started at the Torrance plant in the middle thirties, when National Supply began equipping its big drilling rigs with fluid couplings, another form of hydraulic transmission. On smaller rigs, manufactured at Toledo, the company was able to use torque converters, of a type made for automotive use, and began buying these in 1939.

The wealth of experience with fluid driven oil field machinery prompted the company to design a complete family of heavy duty converters. Two sizes were put in production at Toledo in 1953, and since that time have proved themselves in the toughest kinds of service in oil fields all over the world.

An exhaustive market study indicated that there also is a need for heavy duty torque converters in mining, logging, earth moving, and other industrial operations in which heavy machinery is subject to frequent starting and stopping and must meet widely varying load requirements.

Omar The Octopus And Big Bertha The Sea Bass Here

Two gargantuan of the sea have taken up residence at Marineland of the Pacific this summer. They are Omar, the giant octopus and Big Bertha, the 400 pound black sea bass, the largest in captivity.

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Individuals who have not registered to vote in the November election must do so by August 13, according to City Clerk A. H. Bartlett.

They may come to the main entrance of the new city hall to register. The new city hall is located at Torrance boulevard and Maple avenue (between Crenshaw and Hawthorne).

TIME TO REGISTER

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Now flowers speed cross-country by telephone. Many floral shops now offer a new service—Flowers by Telephone. When flowers are to be sent out of town, the florist calls the distant city and places the order before the customer leaves the shop. If the flowers are for are out of stock, the customer is free to change his order, knowing his flowers will arrive on time. Florists who offer this new service display an emblem reading: "We speed flowers by telephone." It's another way telephone people—working with florists—make telephone service do a better job for you. The men and women of Pacific Telephone work to make your telephone more useful every day.

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TErminal 3-5291 — PACIFIC at FOURTH, SAN PEDRO

DODGE - PLYMOUTH FRontier 2-2122

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WALTER G. LINCX
312 PACIFIC COAST HWY. - 312 S. CATALINA, Redondo Beach

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FRANK H. AFTON CO.

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4351 W. CENTURY BLVD.
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OS. 7-8253 OR. 8-3186

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Attention!
CAR POOL DRIVERS
SMOG WARNING
FORECAST
Activate Car Pool Tomorrow

SMOG ALERT

Joanne Gates reminds Jim Meehan, (right) 156 Via La Soledad, Hollywood Riviera; Bob Surber, 112 Via La Circula, Hollywood Riviera; and Art Austin, (partially hidden) 4615 Green Meadows, Torrance, to activate their General Petroleum corporation car pool. This car pool, from the Southwest region to downtown Los Angeles, is one of 800 activated by General Petroleum employees on smog alert days.